



QAASUITSUP
KOMMUNIA



ADOPTED

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2017 Planning Strategy for Qaasuitsup Municipality

The strategy is the first step towards submitting a sub-revision of the town plan to the future, new municipal council.

Growth through diversity

COLOPHON

The 2017 Planning Strategy is approved by the municipal council.

Date: 04.07.2017

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Aurora borealis

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Preface

Every four years, the Greenlandic municipalities are to decide whether they want to revise their town plans in part or in full. As part of the plan, a planning strategy must be prepared, setting the direction for the development and providing an overview of the future activities in the municipality.

The strategy is to present the visions for the municipality's future development, while being specific and action-oriented. The strategy is the first steps towards a new town plan for Qaasuitsup Municipality.

The municipality's planning strategy has a 12-year perspective, but is revised every four years. Consequently, in the **2017 Planning Strategy** for Qaasuitsup Municipality, we have chosen to focus on the project and development initiatives which, over the next four years, will help bring us closer to fulfilling the overall goals of the vision.

The municipal council has decided to make the value **growth through diversity** the common thread in the planning strategy.

The department recommended the municipal council to add the following to the submitted draft: What do we want to be known for in Qaasuitsup Municipality and how do we get industrial and business development to play to its strengths in terms of fishery, research, education as well as tourism. This is included in present plan.

The municipal council decided to make the plan adaptable in case of a division of the municipality.

The town plan is updated regularly through town plan addendums.

As regards the municipal council's wish to have the plan be adaptable in case of a division of the municipality, the following can be said: If the municipality is divided, the legislative basis listed below shall apply.

Should the municipality be divided, new municipal councils will be set up and tasked with preparing planning strategies based on their goals and visions. Naturally, present plan may be used as a starting point, but the new municipal councils and their policies will form the basis for planning.

The 2017 Planning Strategy forms the basis for the revision of the town plan. Present draft 2017 Planning Strategy recommend to adopt a sub-revision of the town plan, since this would allow the current municipal council to be able to hand over updated material to the new municipal council(s).

In the planning strategy, the municipal council sets the stage for implementing a sub-revision of the town plan, and for having the 2017-2029 Town Plan focus on planning for tourism and business development. In parallel, work is done to develop infrastructure, and a decision is pending regarding realisation of the three program packages on infrastructure and airports.

Happy reading.

For the municipal council



Ole Dorph
Mayor

2017 Planning Strategy

A planning strategy is a political document designed to visualise the municipal council's strategy for future planning in the municipality. As such, the planning strategy forms the basis for the further development of the 2014-2016 Town Plan for Qaasuitsup, and it forms the basis for an overall strategy for sector plans and policies.

The 2017 Planning Strategy focuses on the same ten strategy focus areas as the basis for specific priorities and decision:

- Industrial development
- Education
- Settlement and great housing
- Culture and identity
- Safety and the good life
- Health and prevention
- Infrastructure
- Climate, environment and nature
- Cultural heritage
- IT, democracy and dialogue.

The focus areas are described below.

The draft 2017 Planning Strategy keeps to these focus areas, but adjusts them in order to:

- increase focus on development of tourism throughout the municipality.
- increase focus on development infrastructure with a view to expanding the airport in Ilulissat and boosting infrastructure throughout the municipality.
- increase focus on expanding and developing Ilulissat by zoning new urban areas.
- increase focus on business and industry by zoning new industrial areas and strengthening the fishing industry.

In the planning strategy, the municipal council primarily treats the physical settings and identity of the municipality. The strategy aims to secure cohesion between the vision and the physical development. The strategy must be operational and allow for further development of the town plan.

Decision to prepare sub-revision of town plan

Based on an assessment of the developments in the municipality and the existing strategy, the municipal council has decided to carry out the revision of the town plan as a sub-revision.

The municipal council finds that the overall spatial planning challenges have not changed considerably since the adoption of the first united town plan in April 2014 and, thus, the strategies and development goals listed in the plan are to be maintained. However, changes will be made

to several of the descriptions of towns and settlements, the delimitation of subareas as well as the provisions stated in the town plan.

The foundation of values and strategies created in connection with the thorough debate preceding Strategy 2020 must be carried on. Now, it must be translated into specific initiatives.

Based on the strategy and the coalition agreement, several focus areas emerge and these will be included in the future planning work and the continuous updating of the town plan. The focus areas point to what specific planning projects should be launched in the future.

Infrastructure and airports

The work on the *Sector Plan for Roads and Traffic* and the *Bylaw for motorised traffic in the open country* makes up the specific basis for updating the town plan. It may also cause a need for preparing detailed plans for expanding infrastructure.

The decision in principle made at the Parliament of Greenland's autumn session in 2015 to construct an international airport in Ilulissat has made it relevant to plan the airport and derived projects as well as carry out preliminary studies and planning of regional runways in Kangaatsiaq, Qasigiannnguit and Qeqertarsuaq.

Planning has already started for a holistic development of Nordre Næs and the other areas between Ilulissat and the airport, the airport expansion as well as the areas north of it by Bredebugt. This masterplan is to be elaborated by preparing detailed planning of the expansion of subareas and necessary infrastructure.

The municipality expects that expanding the infrastructure and in particular airports is a clear prerequisite for broadening the existing industrial possibilities and boosting the competitive strength of Qaasuitsup Municipality, both locally and internationally.

To support the focus area IT, democracy and dialogue, the town plan's general provisions on technical supply plants and other infrastructure are to be updated to also include radio relay systems and expansion of submarine cables. Consequently, the provisions in the revised town plan will state:

"The areas comprise large infrastructure facilities such as airports, heliports, permanent port facilities, large road systems, tunnels, aerial cable ways, radio relay systems, submarine cable and ancillary technical buildings, tanks and the like."

Two principal industries

Ilulissat is the leading tourist town in Greenland and tourism is a massive contributor to the

economy. But fishing remains our principal industry and our bread and butter. In the future, we must protect it even more.

The company structure is characterised by many small companies with few employees complemented by a handful of large companies – that goes for both the fishing and the tourism industries.

We need to create long-term, stable and attractive framework conditions for companies. During the past planning period, vast efforts were made to secure favourable framework conditions, e.g. by planning for fish processing plants and tourism project such as the Ilulissat Isfjord Centre and the preservation and tourism project in Ilimanaq.

The coming period will continue to prioritise the establishment of good framework conditions, for the two principal industries in particular, but also for other industries. In this context, one of the main tasks will be to secure sufficient development possibilities for tourism in relation to the airport expansion.

Urban spaces and room for children

Given the demographic trends and migration patterns of the population, there is still a need for planning for the expansion of residential areas – especially in the larger towns.

The coming period is to focus on creating a larger, more varied range of homes – both in terms of size, ownership and location – in order to secure quality and diversity.

The coming planning period is to focus on urban spaces, leisure areas, recreational areas and all of the areas between homes, in particular to secure room for persons to thrive and be active, and to secure high-quality layout of urban spaces and links between leisure areas in our towns and settlements.

The work on the *Sector Plan for Recreational Areas and Activities* makes up the specific basis for updating the town plan in terms of securing quality and diversity in the layout of our communities.

Vision

This strategy sets the stage for a targeted development of Qaasuitsup Municipality. The new vision sets out the direction and success criteria for the coming years:

In Qaasuitsup Municipality, there is room for many different people, experiences and

development. Respecting our basis for living – the magnificent nature, natural resources and unique culture – we create room for new life, new communities, a sustainable modern development and – not least – each other.

In the world's largest municipality, there is room – room for experiences, room for thriving, room for people and communities, room for being human, room for each other, and room for leading a good life. Our slogan is:

Qaasuitsup Municipality: **Growth through diversity.**

Qaasuitsup Municipality is an inclusive municipality – both in terms of settings and in terms of values.

The vision is the overall goal for Qaasuitsup Municipality, which all other policies and efforts aim for. Basically, the vision describes what Qaasuitsup Municipality is to live off and prioritise in the future and how to best unite the strengths within the municipality – including physical planning. It is also about how to unite the municipality's efforts in developing the municipality.

The vision is based on four values characterising the special qualities of Qaasuitsup Municipality. The four values underpin the vision for what Qaasuitsup Municipality should be known – and loved – for in the future. All initiatives undertaken in the municipality must tie in with the four values.

The four fundamental values in Qaasuitsup Municipality are:

- Solidarity
- Learning
- Diversity
- Hospitality.

Qaasuitsup Municipality considers solidarity part of our cultural identity. Through solidarity, we achieve safety and are motivated to assume responsibility.

To be able to utilise the many future possibilities, learning is to be a focal point.

The strength of north-western Greenland lies in its diversity – our unique nature, the changes of seasons, natural resources, possibilities for adventures and our living societies. We want to maintain and protect this diversity in the future.

By focusing on hospitality, we can build on the traditional friendliness, warmth and openness of north-western Greenland.



Arriving in Ilulissat

Demographic perspectives

It is stated in the national planning forecast '*Landsplanredegørelse 2015 – Den nødvendige kooordinering*' that, until 10-15 years ago, the general population in Greenland was increasing. Nevertheless, the shortage of young women may in just a few years result in a decrease in the total Greenlandic population. The same will be the case for Qaasuitsup Municipality.

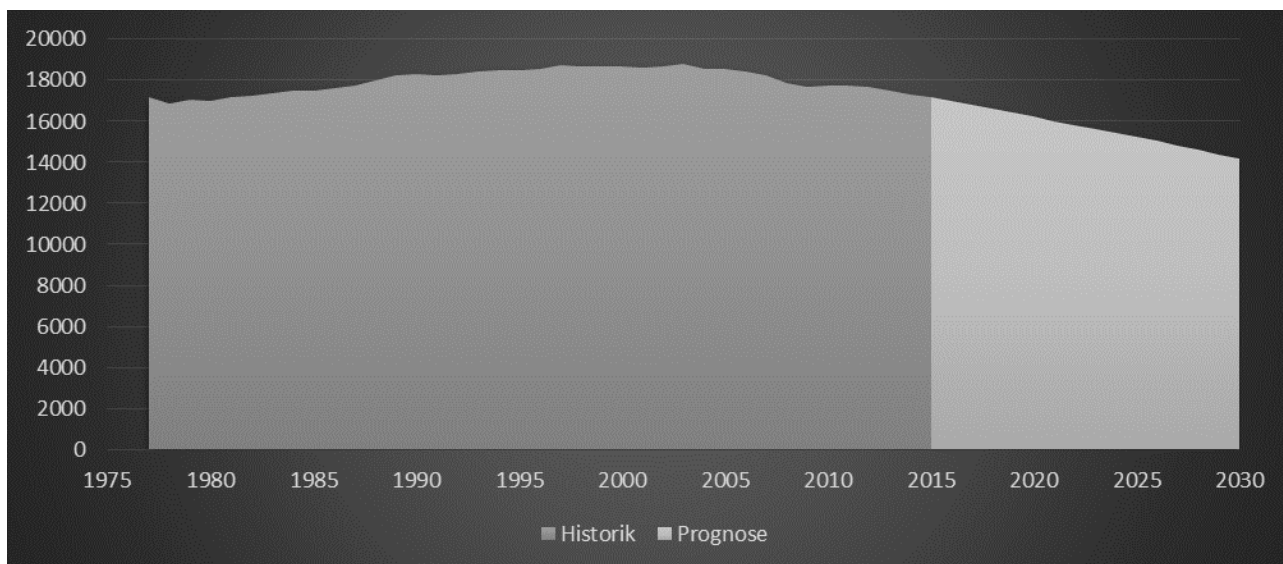
The demographic lurches and migration between towns and settlements also affect residential demands. Some towns and settlements hold vacant homes, whereas others suffer from a shortage of homes and long waiting lists. The varying distribution of the population across different age groups may result in considerable demographic challenges.

Population and settlement

Almost a third of the Greenlandic population lives in Qaasuitsup Municipality. On 1 January 2015, the municipality's towns and settlements numbered 17,168 inhabitants.

The population of Qaasuitsup is expected (according to Statistics Greenland's regional forecast) to continue to decrease towards 2030. Stating an average decrease of some 1.3 per cent a year, corresponding to 200 persons, the expected decrease is larger than the decrease witnessed in recent years.

Since 2003, the population decrease has been most evident in settlements and in Kangaatsiaq. Ilulissat, Qaanaaq and Aasiaat have more or less maintained a steady population, whereas Qasigianniguit, Qeqertarsuaq and Uummannaq have also seen quite considerable decreases.



Population figures for the municipality

Being the world's largest municipality, Qaasuitsup Municipality is characterised by numerous towns and settlements – in total, eight towns and 32 settlements. In fact, more than half of the Greenlandic settlements are located in Qaasuitsup Municipality. An increasing percentage of the municipality's population resides in one of the eight towns.

On 1 January 2010, there were 6,072 homes in Qaasuitsup Municipality. The Government of Greenland owns around one fourth of the homes.

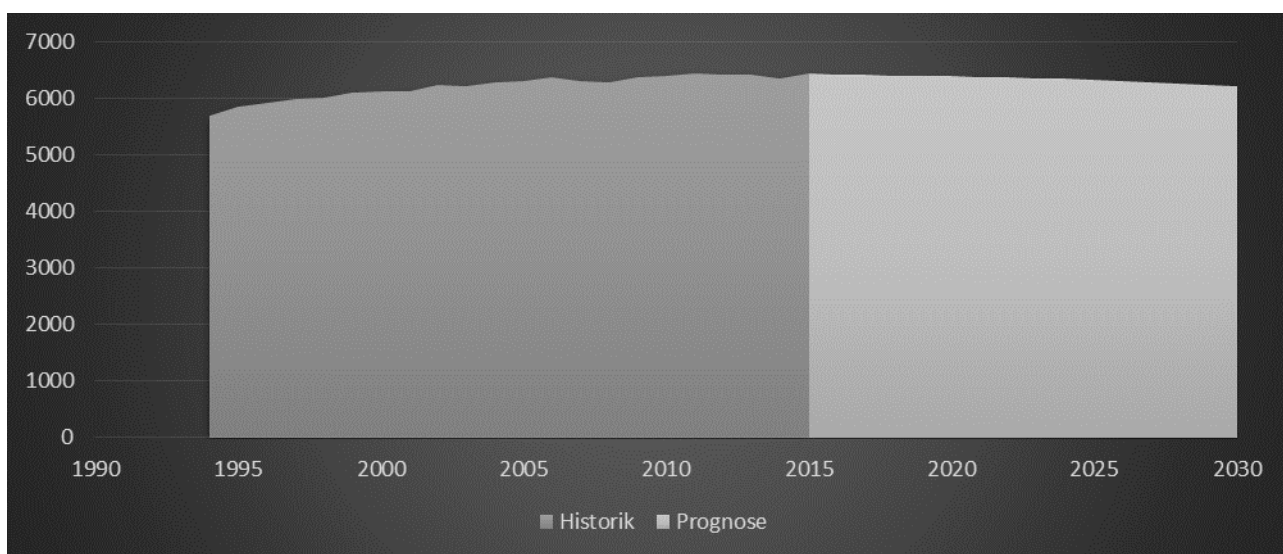
- 71% of the homes are located in towns, the average household size in 2010 being 2.3-2.7 persons per home. The national average is 2.4.

- 29% of the homes are located in settlements, the average household size in 2010 ranging from 1.1 to 3.4 persons per home. The national average is 2.3.

Households have decreased in size in recent years – especially in settlements.

The number of households in Qaasuitsup has practically been stable, seeing a small increase, since the mid-90s. Given the population development in that period, this represents a decreasing household size, down from 3.2 persons per household to 2.7.

A decrease of some 200 households is expected towards 2030, equalling a little less than 15 a year. This decrease is expected to hit settlements and the smallest towns in particular.



Number of households in the municipality

Considering an expected decrease in population, the varying distribution of the population and the diminishing household size, there will be a

need to construct new homes – especially in the three largest towns. This is to be further studied in the future sector planning.

From vision to action

Qaasuitsup Municipality will translate the vision into action and realise the strategy. The municipality will do this by focusing on ten strategic focus areas, which form the basis for specific priorities and decisions.

Industrial development

Developing industry and business is vital to the municipality's general development. Focus is to be on possibilities in the fishing industry enabling a better utilisation of live resources, and the tourism industry is to be unfolded in all corners of the municipality. Likewise, new ideas and business possibilities must be supported and promoted. Supplementary training will be a keyword in upgrading the local workforce to take on new challenges.

Qaasuitsup Municipality is in general behind with all major social investments in infrastructure, institutions and the like compared to other Greenlandic municipalities. Fishing and tourism are still the largest industries in the municipality.

The high seasonal variation in employment and a generally high unemployment rate constitute a serious threat and will undermine the municipality's economy in the long term. With this in mind, it is absolutely crucial to secure a positive development in business and industry towards a society with a healthier economy.

Possibilities and challenges vary from place to place in the municipality. Qaasuitsup Municipality's job will be to map the local resources in the municipality. And it will be necessary to define how to best utilise and locally maintain these resources in order for industry to be beneficial to everyone.

The principal industries in the municipality – fishery and the fishing industry – must be financially and environmentally sustainable industries. The requirements for utilisation of live resources are constantly developing and the industries are currently undergoing a modernisation and optimisation process.

The trend is ever larger, more effective and modern fishing boats, which puts traditional dinghy fishing under pressure. In spite of this, good and sufficient development possibilities for the fishing industry must be secured in both towns and settlements.

In general, we have to get much better at utilising our live resources and developing new quality products through a higher level of processing. Our raw materials – the Greenland halibut, shrimps etc. – are already known to be among the best in the world. We must have the courage to think big and outside the box.

We must continuously secure better physical conditions for industry throughout the municipality. For example, the physical development plan for the town of Ilulissat will zone new industrial areas, which can generate improved development opportunities while relieving the town centre.

Global warming and increasing worldwide climate awareness have played a part in putting north-western Greenland on the map, translating into new tourists and income for the municipality.

Tourism is an industry with vast development potential for north-western Greenland. Over a number of years, the area around Disko Bay has acquired solid experience and professionalism in tourism matters.

The new climate tourism is a good example of how climate change can become an advantage and generate new business possibilities.

Establishing the Ilulissat Isfjord Centre and expanding the airport would make it probable to see a vast positive development in the number of tourists visiting destinations in the municipality. Small-scale tourism projects should also be launched, such as urban revitalisation and improvement of access conditions, aiming to boost tourism throughout the municipality.

For the tourism industry to develop in the years to come, one of the challenges will be to spread out visitors more over the course of the year, and to draw them further to the north and to new destinations. Innovation and development of new concepts may be part of municipal strategies and policies for industrial development and tourism.

The production of ice and water is a great example of new products with promising development potential from a business perspective. Skiing at Qeqertarsuaq is another example of how we can utilise existing conditions and rethink our tourist activities.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to help stimulate its inhabitants' commitment and motivation to become business owners. We need more entrepreneurs that we have today. Therefore, the municipality must lead the way and drive a positive development where innovation and fresh thinking go hand in hand with knowledge sharing and cooperation between the different industry players – companies, politicians and the municipality.

Here, Qaasuitsup Municipality's key job is to communicate the needs of the industry to the local business community and set up conferences, supplementary training programmes and similar activities.

More emphasis should be put on education, upgrading and learning in order to locally benefit

from the development – in the short and long term.



Midnight trip for tourists

Education

The strategy runs for many years to come. Therefore, education for children and young people continues to be a top focus area. Learning should not be restricted to children and young people, though. Supplementary training and upgrading of the work force are very important.

In Qaasuitsup Municipality, we consider learning and education to be the key to the future development of our society. Through learning and education, we provide our children and young people with the tools and competencies required to cope with the challenges of the future.

With that in mind, Qaasuitsup Municipality rates learning and the physical settings of learning high. We want to equip our children in terms of education so they can interact with and measure up to other children around the globe.

A prerequisite for jointly developing the school of the future is the social foundation. We must address problems early on and act swiftly to stop them from escalating. We must secure commitment from each other to building good, safe settings for our children and young.

In the future, it is important to have more young

people complete an education and gain competencies at a higher level than today. We must make a special effort to attract skilled teachers to the municipality.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to help develop new ways of thinking education and school to help retain students on post-secondary education programmes.

Perhaps, in the future, it would be possible to combine a post-secondary education programme with an interest in sports? The required physical settings for different programmes – dormitories etc. – must be established as soon as possible.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to give high priority to learning and the physical settings of learning.

In Qaasuitsup Municipality, we value curiosity along with the courage and desire to acquire new learning – regardless of age. Supplementary education is a prerequisite for developing the labour market. For instance, many have poor reading skills and we need to map the number of poor readers and the scope of the problem.

Efforts will be made to strengthen courses and

programmes related to the labour market. Upgrading of skills, trial jobs and rehabilitation are among the initiatives that we will work on. We will continue to focus on developing vocational training through Piareersarfiit. We want to offer excellent supplementary training and courses to everyone who wants to upgrade their skills and develop new competencies in order to take on tomorrow's business and labour challenges in the municipality.

The older generation holds vast knowledge, which is not utilised today or passed on to the next generation. Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to stimulate knowledge exchange and activities across generations, getting the young to learn from the old and vice versa.

Qaasuitsup Municipality will make modern technology a key element in developing the educational sector. To a higher extent, we must use technology to tackle some of the challenges facing us.

In addition to knowledge of modern technology, solid language skills will be vital in north-western Greenland in the future. International study and language stays in English-speaking countries could be developed as an educational offer to our young.

Qaasuitsup Municipality will invest in expanding and strengthening the existing educational institutions. At the same time, the municipality contemplates expanding educational offers in climate, society, culture and languages.



First day of school

Settlement and great housing

Qaasuitsup Municipality should be an attractive place to live. An active settlement policy is to form the basis for industrial development and education. Our towns and settlements are all different and we want to take advantage of this in the future development of the municipality. It must also be decided where tomorrow's urban development should take place.

Good planning and fresh thinking are to ensure a continuous balance between towns and settlements in Qaasuitsup Municipality. Future urban and settlement development will build on what we do well, while keeping in mind the many unutilised opportunities and potentials.

Our towns and settlements each have their distinctive features and identities and we want to develop and preserve this diversity in the years

to come.

Consequently, in Qaasuitsup Municipality, each town and settlement is to work on identifying its special strength, identity and reason for being. What do we do particularly well in this place? What can we invest in the time to come? Such mapping of the development potential of each town and settlement will provide the municipal council with a tool to prioritising various efforts as regards future industrial development, educational possibilities, development of new cultural offers etc.

Qaasuitsup Municipality will include our citizens and work to ensure diversity in towns and settlements across the municipality.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to be an excellent place to live, so it is a high priority to be able to offer good, attractive housing or lots to everyone who wants to settle in the municipality. Focus should be on developing and stimulating

private construction of housing. But to overcome the housing shortage, the municipality wants to develop construction of social housing and be able to offer more inexpensive apartments to the less well-off.

It is a massive challenge to improve the general housing standard and many homes across the municipality are in need of renovation. Some homes in towns and settlements are unfit for habitation.

Given that learning and education are high priorities for the municipality, housing for students – dormitories – is given special attention. We are in grave need of fine dormitories for the many young people who want to enter the educational institutions in the municipality.

These years are seeing ever higher requirements for housing. Society is developing, our way of living is changing, and new needs and life styles emerging. For instance, more choose to live alone; senior citizens want to stay in their own home longer; and we are seeing more modern families with children from different marriages etc.

In the future, we must get better at creating a larger, more varied range of housing – in terms of size, ownership and accessibility. We must move away from uniformity and old mind-sets towards diversity.

In the future, we must have the courage to invest in quality. We must get much better at integrating sustainability in new building and renovation works, thereby future-proofing our homes. The energy consumption of housing makes up a large share of the total energy con-

sumption in the municipality. Even small initiatives can result in vast economic gains.

The fact that it is not possible to own land in Greenland is unique. That results in special conditions for the physical layout and character of our towns and settlements. For instance, it is possible to move more freely around towns, moving criss-cross between houses. These special characteristics and patterns are to be preserved and developed in the future layout of our towns and settlements. There must also be room for dogs, room for boats and room for a rainbow of colours.

The architectonic quality of our homes and the physical surroundings must be put on the agenda and given more attention. What does a house contribute to its surroundings? We must remember to appreciate the unique features that we have, and make an effort to preserve high-quality buildings and built environments.

While respecting the Greenlandic construction practices and traditions, we must also create room for new, modern architecture. There is to be a balance between old and new.

The standard of a home is not the only parameter that decides whether it is attractive or not. The physical surroundings of a home are becoming more important. Are there any playgrounds nearby? Do you get a view from the home? Does it come with good-quality facilities and outdoor leisure areas where you can catch up with neighbours and enjoy the view?

Qaasuitsup Municipality will meet the future demands for good, attractive outdoor spaces by involving citizens and preparing a recreational green plan.



Sledge ride

Culture and identity

Cultural and social life generates solidarity and identity. The coming years' planning activities are to support and further develop the vast potential while increasing focus on securing meeting places and rooms for thriving in towns and settlements.

'The Inuit had the physical and spiritual life force to survive and develop, had the energy to unfold their imagination and creative urge while enjoying each other's company. There was room for being human.'

'Through their ancestors' wisdom and way of living, the Inuit have succeeded in creating, in spite of external conditions, a viable culture, which in a strong and unique manner is expressed in their ceremonies, rituals and celebrations. Whenever people gathered, displays of humour and festivity were typical Inuit characteristics.'

In north-western Greenland, we value culture and we are known for a strong, vibrant cultural life centred on the Greenlandic language. It ranges from traditional needlework and handicraft from Qaanaaq to modern, Greenlandic rock at the world's northernmost rock festival, NIP-IAA, in Aasiaat.

Culture fosters solidarity and unity. Whether it is a soccer tournament, a rock festival, a dog sledge race or a kaffe-mik – these are all activities that make up part of our shared living culture and identity.

Qaasuitsup Municipality values culture highly and wants to be a vibrant municipality that

offers diversity in culture, cultural experiences and activities.

Qaasuitsup Municipality boasts a very active and vibrant social life, which we want to grow in the future. There should be good facilities for associations and village halls should be re-thought and updated. Good meeting places should be established: Both small, intimate places between houses, and large, public places and facilities with room for people to do sports and exert themselves.

Sled dogs are a significant part of the north-western Greenlandic culture. Climate change has reduced the number of sled dogs, but they are still a live tool for fishermen and catchers as well as a part of our identity that we must safeguard.

The vast geographical scope of the municipality means that we boast a broad range of dialects. This linguistic wealth and variation is one of the areas that the municipality wants to strengthen and preserve in the future.

Qaasuitsup Municipality also wants to integrate newcomers better in society by means of special initiatives regarding Greenlandic language training.

Culture transcends language barriers, national borders and nationalities. By increasing focus on our culture, we will see new possibilities of establishing friendships and meeting new other foreign cultures. Qaasuitsup Municipality considers culture a key part in the process of developing new international cooperation and opening ourselves to the world.



Kaffe-mik

Safety and the good life

Safety is an important foundation for learning and development. Qaasuitsup Municipality focuses on vulnerable groups and on securing good and safe settings for all children in the municipality, and providing safe quality leisure areas in urban spaces.

In Qaasuitsup Municipality, we want all citizens to have good and safe settings to live in.

But in order to grow and develop, the foundation must be solid. We all need a number of basic living conditions in order to thrive and develop.

Our ancestors were good at adapting to survive in the rough Arctic nature. Confronted by volatile weather and unforeseeable challenges, they used their wits and made careful preparations to find a way out of trouble.

We need to muster all the strength and willingness to change that is embedded in our culture and natural instincts and use them to tackle some of the many challenges we are facing today.

Our starting point should be our resources, not our problems. Putting people first, we must focus on possibilities and strengths to ensure that our initiatives help create positive development and change.

We must respect each individual's life situation, but it should be a matter of give and take and we should require each citizen to do their part.

We must focus on our children and the young – they are the future that our society will build on. Some children are especially vulnerable and require special help and support to overcome challenges. We need to break the negative cycle.

In our social initiatives, Qaasuitsup Municipality focuses on the whole picture, not just the individual. If our initiatives are to have any effect, we have to look at not just the problem and the individual, but also the context in which the individual and the problem exist.

Early action is vital. We need to be good at addressing problems as soon as possible before they grow too big.

Through early action targeting pregnant women and good, interdisciplinary cooperation among the municipality, midwives and health visitors, we will give new citizens in Qaasuitsup Municipality the best possible start to life.

Many human and economic resources are wasted when so many young are left to themselves, roaming about the town at night. We have to face the problem and, with a firm but loving hand, invite the young to join more meaningful relations and communities. In this way, they will learn to be responsible for themselves and others.

In the future, we must invite children and the young to be part of the process of developing new projects relevant to them. In this way, we will in the long term achieve a far higher commitment and sense of responsibility among children and the young.

Senior citizens are an important resource to society. They should not be isolated and stored out of sight, rather be included in communities, contributing valuable knowledge and experience. Senior citizens should be treated with dignity. Preparations should be made to enable them to remain in their own home as long as possible, if that is what they want. Retirement homes are to be enhanced and provide high-quality services.



The good life

Health and prevention

Health and prevention are key topics in the municipality's future investments in the development of the municipality. By taking preventive measures now, we can avoid having to fix issues later on.

Lifestyle diseases caused by physical inactivity and unhealthy living have truly manifested in north-western Greenland.

Overweight or obesity is a growing problem among children and adults alike, costing society substantial amounts every year. Obesity comes with massive human costs in the form of chronic secondary complications such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and certain types of cancer.

Preventing inactive lifestyles and the fight against obesity are interdisciplinary and cross-sector jobs that involve a number of different actors – both municipal and private. We must join forces if we want to change the gloomy statistics.

Good cooperation across actors is a fundamental condition for success.

Qaasuitsup Municipality defines health as physical, mental and social well-being. Health is much more than the absence of disease.

Health is also about quality of life, about feeling a sense of solidarity and meaning. Health cannot be considered isolated, but must be considered in the context of each person's heritage, resources, lifestyle, network, living conditions etc.

Lifestyles and habits are developed in early childhood and are difficult to change later on. Consequently, it is important to take early action targeting children especially and their parents as role models.

Children and young people tend to be quite lackadaisical about risks and often have poor habits when it comes to dental care, diet, smoking, alcohol, sniffing and experimenting with weed. We

need to considerably change the mind-set of our children and young.

In that process, we must make good use of previous municipal experience with young as role models.

A healthier diet and increasing physical activity are to be main elements in the municipality's strategy to battle passive lifestyles and obesity with children and the young. We need to focus on the food we eat and how we can bring more local produce to our canteens, kiosks and supermarkets to present healthy alternatives to junk food, snacks, candy and soda.

We must also focus on bettering our citizens' possibilities of physical activity in institutions, school, work places, outdoor areas etc.

The larger towns must provide good recreational opportunities near residential areas such as playgrounds and activity squares where you can play games, play ball and ride skateboards in the summer, and ride sleds, ice skate and ski in the winter.

In settlements, a playground can provide settings for hours' of entertaining games and exercise. There must be easy accessibility and good framework conditions for leisure boats and sled dogs in the municipality's towns and settlements, as they are important means of transport to experience and be active in nature.

Local sports associations (running clubs, skiing clubs, soccer clubs etc.) play an extremely important role in terms of health and prevention.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to support the many volunteers that work hard to boost healthy living in the municipality.

Through increasing cooperation and small events, such as award shows, the municipality will try to highlight the many citizens and associations that make a difference.



Ilulissat Hospital

Infrastructure

A good and efficient infrastructure is a necessity for developing society. Airports especially play a key role, but regarding both the extension of Ilulissat and any establishment of new regional airfields are awaiting a decision at the Parliament of Greenland's spring session in 2016. The Sector Plan for Roads and Traffic is being prepared.

To Qaasuitsup Municipality, infrastructure plays a particularly important role. Airports and good port facilities are prerequisites to continuing growth and to securing good, reliable supplies in the municipality. The necessary infrastructure investments we are facing are simply a prerequisite for developing the municipality in the years to come.

A major international airport would have a massive impact on the municipality as a whole, in terms of both increasing tourism and securing new business possibilities, more newcomers and new tax revenue.

At the Parliament of Greenland's autumn session in 2015, a decision in principle was made to construct an international airport in Ilulissat with a 2,200-metre runway. Attracting more tourists to Greenland and achieving cheaper domestic flights are the targets of the political agreement to expand and construct airports.

As part of the decision in principle, it was decided to have Naalakkersuisut look into the possibility of constructing regional airports – with gravel runways – in Kangaatsiaq, Qasigiannugit and Qeqertarsuaq to increase regularity and transport reliability to these three towns. The expansion would affect traffic among towns across the municipality.

Infrastructure changes, and especially changes to the airport structure, will affect people's choice of transport and how we travel and will lead to savings in terms of travel time and costs.

Expanding airports would secure a great basis for developing tourism – in Ilulissat and in the other towns. To support the opportunities, an industrial development plan is to be prepared for the entire municipality, based on Naalakkersuisut's plans to expand Ilulissat airport.

The airport expansion would support several ongoing projects such as the Ilulissat Isfjord Centre, the Ilimanaq project and the Eqi expansion. The project will call for an expansion of the remaining infrastructure in and around Ilulissat. At the same time, there would be a vast development potential for expanding urban areas between Ilulissat and the airport.

Planning has already kicked off for a holistic development of Nordre Næs and the other areas between Ilulissat and the airport, the airport expansion and the areas north of it by Bredebugt.

The future revision of the town plan is to contain an elaboration of this masterplan as well as preliminary planning to establish regional airports in Kangaatsiaq, Qasigiannugit and Qeqertarsuaq and expand the related infrastructure. To increase export of our different products, it is vital to invest in new port facilities.

Each year, the municipality is visited by many cruisers, and the facilities that we are able to offer the wealth of tourists do not meet their standards and expectations. New port facilities and good infrastructure are important in order to continue to develop cruise tourism.

In the future, we must be good at finding simple, long-term development strategies to ensure an effective and rational utilisation of both new and existing infrastructure in Qaasuitsup Municipality. This is to be done by preparing a municipal sector plan for roads and traffic, which can help coordinate initiatives.

In several places across the municipality, for instance in Uummannaq, breakwaters can considerably improve local conditions for dinghy fishermen. In general, such solutions should be considered carried out in places with similar needs.

Sewer installations, water supply and roads and expensive and, once installed, they are even more expensive to remove. Good planning is to help secure the best infrastructure in our towns and settlements at the lowest costs.

The way we design out towns and settlements also influences our daily level of activity. Children need to have access to safe roads and paths to and from school, so they can walk to school themselves.

Good recreational opportunities close to or near residential areas – playgrounds, ski trails, benches – determine whether citizens are active in their leisure time.

Accessibility is to be considered when designing the physical surroundings in both towns and settlements.

The disabled, senior citizens etc. must be given better conditions and possibilities for moving about towns. Projects involving construction of

senior homes, dormitories etc. would benefit from integrating sustainability considerations right from the start.

The buildings owned by the municipality, municipal offices, schools, village halls etc. should meet tighter requirements for accessibility and consideration for disabled and senior citizens. In this way, the municipality can be a driver and set a good example.

Whatever solutions we identify should be sustainable in the long term and utilise the fact that we are a large municipality and the opportunities that affords us.

Qaasuitsup Municipality focuses on safe, sustainable waste management. Fresh thinking and innovation will be important elements in the coming action plan for safe waste management in the municipality.

Climate change is leading to a number of new challenges in the municipality. Our roads in particular are vulnerable to the decreasing permafrost, causing many problems. Qaasuitsup Municipality is involved in an international research project that focuses on permafrost and new solutions in terms of roads and infrastructure in areas with permafrost.

In the future, the municipality will work actively to develop such collaborations on development projects that can help solve the problems the municipality is facing. New knowledge and research are essential to develop viable solutions.



Airport arrival hall

Climate, environment and nature

The municipality is increasing its focus on sustainability and the impact of climate change on our environment and nature. The global change has made it necessary to plan for climate change, in terms of drainage of water and rising sea levels. We are also focusing on how to use areas between our houses and the landscape outside our towns.

The climate is changing noticeably these years. Climate change is causing the weather to change, bringing with it heavier rainfall, stronger winds, higher average temperatures and a shorter winter season.

Today, we are facing considerable uncertainties in terms of predicting the consequences of climate change: What advantages and disadvantages will the municipality see in the short and the long term?

Our ancestors also experienced and adapted to climate change. What matters is that Qaasuitsup Municipality must be abreast of any change.

Qaasuitsup Municipality must be well-informed and ready to adapt to the new opportunities and challenges caused by climate change. One of the main reasons for the changing climate is people's emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore, we should limit the emission of CO₂. As the local authority, Qaasuitsup Municipality will lead the way.

We require that all new buildings are environmentally sustainable. Our energy sector should to the extent possible be based on green energy sources. Our town hall is to undergo energy optimisation, followed by as many of our municipal buildings as possible.

Our natural areas make up a substantial basis for the population's recreational possibilities, fishing, sealing and whaling, settlement and tourism. In Qaasuitsup Municipality, we demand

that society develops on a sustainable basis in respect of people's living conditions and of the preservation of flora and fauna.

The municipality's responsibilities in terms of nature conservation include nature management, nature restoration, nature monitoring, supervision of protected areas, ancient monuments and natural amenities, improvement of the public's access to and leisure areas in nature as well as communication.

In practice, we see oil tins being thrown in the sea when the engine has been topped up, waste being left in the wild after camping trips, and discarded packaging being dumped in sled tracks.

Our attitude has to change. We must make it a mutual habit not to dump waste in nature and adopt better habits.

In the next years, an environmental action plan is to be prepared to ensure that no initiatives are launched that deteriorate nature and living conditions, not now and not for coming generations.

Waste should be a focus area. Not just in terms of disposal, but throughout the circle that substances and materials pass through, in order to limit waste of resources through resource minimisation and reuse.

Raw materials and other natural resources are to be utilised in a sustainable and, in all aspects, safe basis. We must be sure that all issues are studied and clarified.

A prerequisite for implementing a more sustainable development in Qaasuitsup Municipality is active involvement of citizens, companies and organisations in the process. In that connection, it is important that the municipality, as the local authority, takes the lead and sets a good example.



The dump in Kangerluk

Cultural heritage and preservation

Our shared heritage helps communicate our identity and our origin. We must preserve it for the next generation.

North-western Greenland has been inhabited for thousands of years. Our heritage concerns the traces of human activity and the variety of cultures that exists in towns and the open country.

In towns and settlements, heritage often covers buildings or special built environments, whereas heritage in the open country most often consists of ancient monuments or cultural landscapes left by the different Inuit cultures that once lived there.

In Qaasuitsup Municipality, heritage is given high priority and the municipality wants to create a stronger understanding and awareness of our shared cultural heritage, ensuring that these values are not lost, but preserved for the future and the next generation. This not only includes ancient heritage or special buildings, but also newer buildings or built environments that tell a story, for instance from a specific period.

Through registration, communication and information, Qaasuitsup Municipality wants, in cooperation with museums, to help foster more interest, understanding and love for our shared ancient monuments, old buildings and urban environments than is the case today.

The many historical buildings and built environments are pieces of the distinct features and

identity of towns and settlements and can be considered an important resource for society. Both acting as attractive destinations for the many tourists visiting our municipality, and contributing to the daily well-being of our citizens.

What we sometimes consider ordinary can share an important story from a specific period. The Greenlandic GTO standard houses from the 50s and 60s are good examples of this. Thanks to the very favourable climatic conditions and dry climate, it will be possible to renovate and upgrade these buildings.

Each of the municipality's towns and settlements holds numerous examples of buildings or built environments that are considered historically valuable and unique, and thereby preservation-worthy heritage.

The built environment is one of the most tangible manifestations of local history and holds tales and stories that can be key to strengthening local identity and creating bonds between citizens across fields of interests.

Few places in the world are considered to possess highly special or unique preservation value across national or geographical borders. The ice fjord, Kangia, is among these places and has been appointed a world heritage site. The UNESCO world heritage convention aims to preserve the world's unique natural and cultural heritage for future generations. The Ilulissat ice fjord was appointed a world heritage site in 2004 because it is a one-of-a-kind natural phenomenon and an example of a stage from the earth's historical development in the last ice age

in the Quaternary period. Interesting archaeological finds have been made at the ice fjord, documenting that the old settlement Sermermiut has been populated for 4,400 years.

To get better at caring for our shared values, we need access to and knowledge of them. Consequently, Qaasuitsup Municipality considers it an important job to communicate information about our heritage – ancient monuments, buildings

and built environments – to the general public. Our heritage must be experienced with our senses in the future, coming to life. We will do this by using modern technology such as text messages, websites and 3D technology.

Another means will be to involve senior citizens, who often possess important information about our past and history, and thereby bring our heritage to life and make it relevant.



View of Ilimanaq

IT, democracy and dialogue

Being the world's largest municipality, Qaasuitsup is facing a number of special challenges. Openness, dialogue and the use of modern technologies are to ensure a vibrant municipality, where the citizens feel they are part of the democracy.

Our large municipality with vast geographical distances between populated areas poses special challenges when it comes to involving citizens.

How do we ensure that citizens actively take part in the development of the municipality and continue to feel close to the political decision-making process despite the great distances? How do we ensure a vibrant municipality with democratic energy as well as good, constructive dialogue and discussions about the municipality's activities that can contribute to strengthening cohesion in Qaasuitsup Municipality?

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to get even better at communicating the municipality's challenges and problems to the general public. With that in mind, Qaasuitsup Municipality is to be a municipality known for its openness and will to finding new ways of involving citizens: ranging from more information about citizens' fundamental rights to testing new methods of citizen involvement.

By involving and having the courage to consult citizens in connection with large-scale projects and decisions, key local information and knowledge is passed on, triggering a higher extent of commitment and responsibility.

The next generation of citizens is to be trained in dialogue and debate and should be able to discuss and participate actively, thereby making it a natural thing for children and the young to be active players in democracy.

The use of modern technology is one of the ways that we will seek to close the gap between citizens and the municipality. The new website will be an important joint platform, helping to tie together the municipality from north to south, from town to settlement, and reach citizens, no matter where they live.

Internet and broadband to all citizens in the municipality must be given high priority. We want there to be room for differences and the cultural diversity in our large municipality. Some of the challenges facing the municipality call for us to organise differently than what we are used to.

In addition to developing the digital possibilities of citizen involvement, communication with citizens and the municipality's administrative tasks, all settlements and towns are to focus on the physical buildings.

Efforts should be made to work in a more holistic and project-based manner across administrations, sectors, disciplines and geographies. Together, we must develop and select new projects that can make a difference, and the very way we organise ourselves will prove vital for our success.

In the future, we must also get better at systematically evaluating and assessing municipal initiatives and activities. Every time we dive into a new project, we should subsequently take the time to share experience about the activity. That entails asking everyone involved in the project:

What went well? What can we do better?

In this way, the municipality can amass knowledge from each project, and thereby avoid repeating mistakes.

Qaasuitsup Municipality wants to be known as a welcoming municipality with vision and commitment – domestically and internationally. Through new collaborations, networks and knowledge sharing and by using modern technology in new ways, we will assume a global mind-set and create a basis for new friendships and future development.



There are many aspects of democracy

Realised planning

Since the promulgation of the 2015 Town Plan, a number of town plan addendums have been prepared and work has begun on a series of sector plans aiming to supplement the town plan.

Status of town plan addendums

Since the adoption of the town plan in April 2014, the municipal council has adopted a number of town plan addendums. Below is a list of town plan addendums that have been promulgated as being in force or have been commenced since the adoption of the town plan.

Najugaqarfik Bosted Town/settlement	Immik-koortortaq Delområde Sub-area	Pilersaarutaasup aqqa Plannavn Plan name	Nr. Nr. No.	Nalunaarut Bekendtgjort Promulgated
ILU	1200-C15	Hotel Icefjord	1	14.04.2015
AAP	1603-B02	Atsaalerataa	2	12.05.2015
AAS	1000-C02	Pottersvej/Peter Olsensvej	3	14.04.2015
NUN	0003-L01	Eqi (Illuaraqarfik/Hytteområde/cottage area)	4	Expected in 2016
UPV	1600-D02	Upernavimmi iliveqarfik Upernavik kirkegård Upernavik cemetery	5	14.04.2015
NIA	1501-B01	Saqqarliit	6	14.04.2015
QST	1502-B01	Aarrusap Kussinersua	7	14.04.2015
UUM	1500-B10	Illuigaq	8	14.04.2015
KLQ	1607-B02	Itserlaa	9	14.04.2015
NUS	1606-B02	Nuukassak	10	14.04.2015
UPK	1601-B02	Innaallagissiorfiup eqqaani inuussutissarsium- mik ingerlatsivik Erhvervområde ved værket Industrial area by the plant	11	14.04.2015
ILU	1200-A15	Alanngukasiup	12	17.03.2015
ILU	1200-C02	Perorsaanermut Ilinniarfik Socialpædagogisk Seminarium Socioeducational college	13	17.03.2015
ILU	1200-C17	Ilulissat Illoqarfiata qeqqa Ilulissat Bymidte Ilulissat town centre	14	24.06.2015
IGF	0905-C01	Iginniarfiup Atuarfia	16	10.04.2015
NQK	0906-A01	Atuarfiup Kristian Lundblad-ip kujataani naju- gaqarfik Bolgområde syd for Atuarfik Kristian Lundblad Residential area south of Atuarfik Kristian Lundblad	17	10.04.2015
ASS	1000-E10	Timmisartunut eqqussisarfimmud inissisimaffiit Område til hangarer Hangar area	18	25.06.2015
ILU	1200-C16	Ujaqqureviup eqqaani qitiusoqarfik Centerområde ved Stenbruddet Centre area by the quarry	19	24.06.2015
ILU	1200-D11	Nunaminertaq sukisaarsartarfik Rekreativt område Recreational area	20	13.04.2015
QEQ	1400-D08	Aquutaasaq	21	25.06.2015
ILQ	1204-E01	Eqqaavissuaq Dumpen The dump	22	25.06.2015
QAAKOM		Qimmilivimmut nunaminertamik atugassiis- sutigineqartumut malittarisassat Retningslinier for arealtildelinger til hundehold Guidelines on area allotment for keeping sled dogs	24	Expected in 2016

UPV	1600-A06	Mittarfiup kitaani najugaqarfik Boligområde vest for lufthavnen Residential area west of the airport Umiarsualivik	25	Expected in 2016
IKE	1503-B01	Havnen The port	26	10.11.2015
KLQ	1607-A01	Oqaluffiup avannaani najugaqarfik Boligområde nord for kirken Residential area north of the church Umiarsualivik	27	Expected in 2016
SAA	1504-B01	Havnen The port	28	Expected in 2016
QEQ	1707-E03	Tankeqarfik Tankanlægget The tank facilities	29	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Angallatinut qaqitanut inissiivik Områder til oplæg af både Areas for storing boats	30	Expected in 2016

Status of other planning

In addition to the town plan addendums prepared since the adoption of the town plan, a number of initiatives related to the town plan have been launched in the form of sector plans.

A digital spatial planning portal has been created to provide one entry point to the always updated town plan, sector plans as well as municipal regulations and bylaws.

Visit it at <http://www.qaasuitsup.plania.gl/dk>.

Sumiiffik Lokalitet Location	Immik- koortortaq Delområde Sub-area	Pilersaarutaasup aqqa Plannavn Plan name	Nalunaarut Bekendtgjort Promulgated
QAAKOM		Silaannarmi sukisaarsaartarfik kiisalu sammisassaqtitsivik pillugu suliamut aalajangersimasumut pilersaarut Sektorplan for rekreative uderum og aktiviteter Sector Plan for Recreational Areas and Activities	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Aqqusinernut kiisalu angallanermut tunngassuteqartut pillugit suliamut aalajangersimasumut pilersaarut Sektorplan for veje og færdsel Sector Plan for Roads and Traffic	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Nunaannarmi qamutit motorillit angallatigineqartarnerannut ileqqoreqqusaq Vedtægt for motoriseret færdsel i det åbne land Bylaw on motorised traffic in the open country	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Qimmineqarnermut ileqqoreqqusaq Vedtægt for hundehold Bylaw on keeping sled dogs	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Qitsuuteqarnermut ileqqoreqqusaq Vedtægt for kattehold Bylaw on keeping cats	Expected in 2016
QAAKOM		Angallatit pillugit malittarisassaq Regulativ for både Regulation on boats	Expected in 2016